

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A muscle development device comprising:

a hollow tight fitting band having a tube and a wire-like piece provided therein; and

fastening means for use in keeping a length of the tight fitting band in a loop having a desired size,

the muscle development device being used to develop muscles of a limb while restricting the blood flow therethrough by means of applying, with said tight fitting band being wrapped around a predetermined compressed range of said limb and said tight fitting band being fastened with said fastening means to have a desired size, a predetermined pressure to said limb around which said tight fitting band is wrapped, the pressure being produced by introducing air to said tube,

said wire-like piece being designed to limit the direction towards which said tube is allowed to inflate as said tube is filled with air, to against the muscles as determined with said tight fitting band being rest on the muscles,

wherein said wire-like piece is a set of wire-like pieces that are placed in a direction generally perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of said tight fitting band at a predetermined distance along the length of said tight fitting band, and

wherein said wire-like piece is provided on the inner surface of the outer segment of the tight fitting band opposite to the muscles and just outside the tube with the wire-like piece being fastened to the tight fitting band with a stretchable seam tape.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A muscle development device comprising:

a hollow tight fitting band having a tube provided therein; and
fastening means for use in keeping a length of the tight fitting band in a loop having a desired size,

the muscle development device being used to develop muscles of a limb while restricting the blood flow therethrough by means of applying, with said tight fitting band being wrapped around a predetermined compressed range of said limb and said tight fitting band being fastened with said fastening means to have a desired size, a predetermined pressure to said limb around which said tight fitting band is wrapped, the pressure being produced by introducing air to said tube,

said tube having a higher stretching rate on the side facing to the muscles than on the side opposite to said muscles, as determined with said tight fitting band being rest on the muscles,

said tube being designed to inflate more in a direction against the muscles than in a direction away from the muscles as said tube is filled with air with said tight fitting band being rest on the muscles,

the muscle development device further comprising a seam tape, which is stretchable but of which stretching rate is lower than that of the tube, adhered to the tube on a side opposite to the muscles.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The muscle development device as claimed in Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising air limiting means that delimits the portion of said tube into which air is allowed to enter when attached to said tight fitting band at a certain position along the length thereof.

9. (New) The muscle development device as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising air limiting means that delimits the portion of said tube into which air is allowed to enter when attached to said tight fitting band at a certain position along the length thereof.